Action plan for remote villae electrification project

*160. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan of Government to help Orissa to light up remote inaccessbile villages in the State through non-conventional energy sources, *i.e.* the villages which cannot be served through grid-power;

(b) the total number of villages in the State that have been identified for electrification under the Remote Village Electrification project (RVE); and

(c) the time-frame within which all such villages would be lighted-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A Programme is being implemented by the Ministry for providing financial support for electrification of those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages, in various states including Orissa, where grid extension is either not feasible or not cost effective and which are not taken up under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojna. Support is provided for those remote villages/hamlets which are identified by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for coverage through non-conventional energy sources. Central Financial Assistance of upto 90% of the costs, subject to pre-specified maximum amounts for each technology, is provided for projects approved under the programme.

(b) REC has identified 1018 remote villages for coverage under the Remote Village Electrification Programme. These have been identified out of the initial lists of sch villages provided by the State government. However, the state government has now informed that only 221 villages out of these are likely to be covered under the Programme as the remainng 797 villages are being taken up for electrification through grid extension.

(c) The primary responsibility for timely implmentation of the projects vests with the state notified implementing agencies. The Ministry has already sanctioned support for coverage of 197 villages for which proposals have been received from the state. The Ministry has been persuading the state for early finalization of the lists of remote villages so that support for these could be sanctioned under the programme. Further progress will depend upon the finalization of the list by the state, its verification by REC and submission of proposals by the state.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Policy for food processing

932. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARITYA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the State Governments to evolve a separate policy for food processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) wheher there is a need for developing post-harvest technologies, to reduce wastage of food products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent wastage of perishable food items and to encourage investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):(a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) with the intention to make concerted efforts for development and growth of food processing sector, is encouraging states to frame Food Processing Industrial Policy for their respective states. This will facilitate the states to create enabling environment for creating rural infrastructure, raise level of processing and generate farm level employment keeping in view their distinct agro climatic scenario and availability of rural infrastructure.

(c) to (e) According to the Vision 2015 Report (April 2005) prepared by Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of Agricultural food items (including fruits) is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crore annually, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life.

MFPI has submitted a proposal on Mega Food Park scheme for 11th Plan to Planning Commission. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. Mega Food Park envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. Further, a proposal on comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for 11th Plan has been submitted to Planning Commission for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels-farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centers. The initiative being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.

Food processing industries in villages

†933. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to encourage food processing industries in villages as the development of agriculture in the country can be expedited

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.